

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02
/094 W

-----172156Z 047673 /14

R 171800Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4675

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 8076

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, UNWFC
SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PREPARATORY MEETING,
ROME, MAY 9-13, 1977

REF: ROME 7950

1. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT GAVE US FOLLOWING COPY
OF WFC L 19/ADD.7 WHICH, PER REFTEL, WE ARE TRANSMITTING
TO ASSURE CHANCE FOR USG TO COMMENT BY MAY 22. UNFORTUNATELY
ADD. 8 WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSMISSION UNTIL MAY 18.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

/ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION/

74. THE PREPARATORY MEETING CONSIDERED THIS ITEM ON THE BASIS
OF DOCUMENT WFC/40 WHICH WAS PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO THE COUNCIL'S
REQUEST THAT A "PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE
FEASIBILITY AND IMPLICATIONS OF ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRI-
TION" BE COMMENCED. THE DOCUMENT POINTS OUT THAT BECAUSE THE
MANY SEPARATE CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL HAVE AN INTER-RELATED
EFFECT ON REDUCING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, IT TIES TOGETHER
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PARTS OF ALL THE SPECIFIC ISSUES DEALT WITH IN OTHER DOCUMENTS
BEFORE THE COUNCIL, AND THEREFORE LENDS A CENTRAL FOCUS TO THE
COUNCIL'S WORK: A SYSTEMATIC AND PROGRESSIVE EFFORT TOWARD
ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. IT AIMS ALSO TO ASSIST THE
COUNCIL TO DEVELOP A LONG-RUN FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH ITS ACTIONS
TO SOLVE SPECIFIC FOOD PROBLEMS CAN AT THE SAME TIME HAVE AN
IMPACT ON THIS OVERALL OBJECTIVE.

75. THE DOCUMENT POINTS OUT THAT THE BASIC CAUSE OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IS POVERTY AND THAT OVERCOMING POVERTY WILL REQUIRE RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTED BY SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES. IT INDICATES WHY PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES HAVE NOT REDUCED HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, ESPECIALLY MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WHICH RELIED ON THE BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT TRICKLING DOWN TO THE HUNGRY AND MALNOURISHED, POINTING OUT THAT THE BENEFITS DO NOT IN FACT REACH THE POOR. THE OBJECTIVES AND INADEQUATE RESULTS OF DDI, DDII AND THE INDICATIVE WORLD PLAN ARE ANALYZED. IT NOTES THAT NEW APPROACHES ARE EMERGING IN THE FORM OF EFFORTS TO CREATE A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THAT POSITIVE ADVANCES ARE NOW UNDERWAY IN POVERTY-ORIENTED RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, BOTH OF WHICH FOCUS DIRECTLY ON POVERTY GROUPS WHICH SUFFER FROM THE GREATEST DEGREE OF ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE. IT IS INTO THIS POVERTY GROUP AND BASIC NEEDS FRAMEWORK THAT THE DOCUMENT SUGGESTS THE COUNCIL MOVE DIRECTLY ON FOOD ISSUES IT CAN INFLUENCE. THESE CONCENTRATE ON FOOD PRODUCTION, FOOD SECURITY, AID, NUTRITION, TRADE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM, WHICH SHOULD ALL BE MADE TO CONVERGE TOWARD THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

76. THE APPROACH SUGGESTED TO THE COUNCIL DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES (FPCS) AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE LARGEST PART OF THE FOOD PROBLEM IS CONCENTRATED IN THE FIRST GROUP CONTAINING MOST OF THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED (MSA) COUNTRIES AND MOST OF THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS). BROADBASED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS SHOULD PREDOMINATE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF LARGE-SCALE POVERTY-GROUP-ORIENTED RURAL UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORTED BY MAJOR PROGRAMMES IN FOOD AID, NUTRITION INTERVENTION, LOCAL FOOD SECURITY, AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, AND INCREASING INTERNAL AND CONCESSIONAL EXTERNAL INVESTMENT IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. IN OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE MORE SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT RURAL DEVELOPMENT, NUTRITION TARGET GROUPS OR REGIONS, AND GREATER EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDING FOOD TRADE AND IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND CAPITAL AS THEY AFFECT SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN THESE COUNTRIES.

77. THE DOCUMENT SUGGESTS THE FOLLOWING INTERDEPENDENT POLICY ELEMENTS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION, EXTRACTED FROM THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE MOST DIRECTLY RELATED TO ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION:

(I) SPECIAL EFFORTS TO EXPAND FOOD PRODUCTION IN FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND AMONG SMALL FARMERS TO AN AVERAGE OF 4 PER CENT PER YEAR, AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO DO SO BY

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES;

(II) A DOUBLING OF INTERNAL INVESTMENTS, SUPPORTED BY LARGER EXTERNAL RESOURCES OF ABOUT \$8.3 BILLION (IN 1975 PRICES) PER YEAR. OUT OF THIS, ABOUT \$6.5 BILLION SHOULD BE IN CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE;

(III) STABILITY OF FOOD SUPPLIES AT REASONABLE PRICES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE POOREST CONSUMERS, THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF GRAIN RESERVES, AND THROUGH ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY;

(IV) BETTER DIRECTED AND INCREASED AMOUNTS OF FOOD AID AS AN INTERIM MEASURE TO IMPROVE NUTRITION AND FOSTER FOOD SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND INCREASED EMPLOYMENT WHICH WOULD INCREASE FOOD CONSUMPTION AMONG MALNOURISHED GROUPS. THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF 10 MILLION TONS OF CEREALS AID MUST BE MET
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FOR THE 1977/78 YEAR AS A FIRST STEP IN THIS PROCESS;

(V) CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL FOOD TRADE TO SUPPORT THE FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD CONSUMPTION EFFORTS PROPOSED;

(VI) RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND BASIC NEEDS EFFORTS AIMED AT TARGET GROUPS, AND THE INTRODUCTION BY GOVERNMENTS OF HUMAN NUTRITION IMPROVEMENTS AS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, TO SUPPORT THESE INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION EFFORTS.

78. THE APPROACH SUGGESTED TO THE COUNCIL INVOLVES A COMMITMENT BY THE COUNCIL TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION AS ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVE AND THE ACCEPTANCE BY ALL COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES OF THE FUNDAMENTAL LINK BETWEEN FOOD PRODUCTION GROWTH OF 4 PER CENT PER YEAR, AND CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN CONSUMPTION, IN FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND THE REQUIRED INCREASES IN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES.

79. THE PREPARATORY MEETING AGREED THAT THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION WAS THE BASIC TASK.....
(MORE COMING)

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02
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AND WELCOMED THE INTEGRATED APPROACH CONTAINED IN THE SECRETARIAT'S PAPER, WHICH PRESENTED A GOOD ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM AND HOW THE COUNCIL COULD BEGIN TO ACT. THE MEETING RECOMMENDED THAT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MANILA SHOULD TAKE THIS ISSUE AND THE INITIATION OF THIS ATTACK AS ITS CENTRAL FOCUS. MANY DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL ASSERT ITS POLITICAL INFLUENCE THROUGH THIS APPROACH TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

80. THE PREPARATORY MEETING REACHED A GENERAL CONSENSUS ON THE SYNTHESIS OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF DELEGATIONS GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE DOCUMENT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

81. MOST DELEGATIONS RECOMMENDED THAT THE MANILA MEETING SHOULD COMMIT ITSELF TO THE CHALLENGING AND DIFFICULT TASK OF REACHING FULL AGREEMENT ON THE CENTRAL SOLUTIONS TO THE ELIMINATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION PROPOSED IN THE DOCUMENT. THEY RECOMMENDED THAT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE TIME FOR ITS DELIBERATIONS. TWO DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE TREATED IN A SUMMARY FASHION AFTER CONSIDERING THE INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS. THE GROUP OF 77 REQUESTED THAT CLOSE ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THEIR DRAFT PROPOSALS.

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82. THE PREPARATORY MEETING ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES AS A GENERAL HYPOTHESIS PERMITTING A BETTER GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS OF ATTENTION TO THE FOOD AND MALNUTRITION PROBLEMS. SOME DELEGATIONS FELT THAT THE PRESENT FORMULATION SHOULD NOT BE RIGID AND MIGHT NEED ADDITIONAL REFINEMENT AS TIME GOES ON, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SIMILAR WORK IN THE CGFPI. DELEGATIONS, BOTH OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES

STRESSED THAT THE FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES WOULD THEMSELVES ACCEPT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SELF-RELIANCE, AND OF SPELLING OUT, WITH ANY ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES THAT THEY MIGHT REQUEST, THEIR OWN POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND PLANS.

83. SOME DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE ESTIMATES IN WFC/40 OF THE MAGNITUDES OF THE INCREASES IN EXTERNAL RESOURCES REQUIRED TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION BY 4 PER CENT PER YEAR AND ON THE QUANTIFICATION OF TARGETS, AS FOR EXAMPLE IN THE CASE OF THE RECOMMENDED MINIMUM FOOD AID TARGET.

84. THE PREPARATORY MEETING STRESSED THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY SHOULD BE THE ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES AT REASONABLE PRICES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION. AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY HELD RESERVES WAS AN IMPORTANT MEANS TO ENSURE THIS. IT WAS ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT FOOD AID CAN BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE IF IT CAN BE PROVIDED WITH GREATER CONTINUITY THROUGH FORWARD PLANNING.

85. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS INDICATED THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS THE SUPERVISORY BODY IN THE AREA OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION AND THAT IT SHOULD BE CLOSELY INVOLVED IN OVERSEEING POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

86. SOME DELEGATIONS POINTED OUT THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN
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TO ENSURE THAT THE PLANNING OF FOOD AID AND INPUTS ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE AIM OF ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

87. ONE DELEGATION REGRETTED THAT THE DOCUMENT HAD NOT INCLUDED IN ITS ANALYSIS SUCH NEGATIVE ASPECTS AS THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, COLONIALISM, NEOCOLONIALISM AND AGGRESSION OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF POOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

88. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS STRESSED THE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT WHILE RAPID INCREASES IN FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE NECESSARY TO REDUCE MALNUTRITION, THIS WOULD NOT SOLVE THE FOOD AND MALNUTRITION CRISIS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY EXPLICIT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES LEADING TO A MUCH MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION AND TRANSFER OF INCOME AND WEALTH AND RAPID IMPROVEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT. THE NEED FOR MAJOR SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS WAS ALSO NOTED AS WELL AS THE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION IN RELATION TO FOOD SUPPLY.
END TEXT.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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